

**U.S. Embassy Freetown, Sierra Leone**  
**Security Message for U.S. Citizens: Update on Ebola Virus Disease (EVD)**

**August 1, 2014**

This is an update to the notice of July 15, 2014, in which we alerted U.S. citizens to the outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in Sierra Leone. As of July 31, confirmed cases of Ebola are in Kailahun, Kenema, Kambia, Kono, Bombali, Tonkolili, Moyamba, Port Loko, Bo, and Bonthe districts and the Western Area Urban.

The Government of Sierra Leone proclaimed a State of Public Emergency to take a more robust approach to the EVD outbreak. Monday, August 4, 2014 is declared a National Stay at Home Day for Family Reflection, Education and Prayers on the Ebola outbreak.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) team members will be arriving to Sierra Leone this week. The CDC team will be working with the Ministry of Health and Sanitation and World Health Organization to assist in the EVD outbreak response efforts. Major international airlines are still flying in and out of Freetown, Monrovia, and Conakry, however; two regional airlines, Asky Air and Air Arik, have cancelled service to and from Freetown and Monrovia.

Furthermore, as a result of the current outbreak of EVD in the region, the U.S. Peace Corps is suspending operations in Sierra Leone. The U.S. Embassy in Freetown remains open and fully operational.

There are increased checkpoints in affected districts, especially Kailahun District, the epicenter of the EVD outbreak, Kenema, and Bo. The President of Sierra Leone announced in a July 31 public radio broadcast that he is instituting the following measures to stop the spread of EVD; these measures will initially be implemented for a period of 60 to 90 days, and that subsequent measures will be announced as and when necessary.

- All epicenters of the disease will be quarantined;
- The police and the military will give support to health officers and non-governmental organizations to do their work unhindered and restrict movements to and from epicenters;
- Localities and homes where the disease is identified will be quarantined until cleared by medical teams;
- Public meetings and gatherings will be restricted with the exception of essential meetings related to EVD sensitization and education;
- Active surveillance and house-to-house searches shall be conducted to trace and quarantine EVD victims and suspects;
- Parliament is recalled to promote MPs' leadership at constituency levels;

- Paramount chiefs are required to establish bylaws that would complement other efforts to deal with the EVD outbreak;
- Mayors, chairmen of councils and councilors are hereby required to support EVD control measures in their local government areas;
- All deaths must be reported authorities before burial;
- New protocols for arriving and departing passengers have been instituted at the Lungi International Airport;
- Cancellation of all foreign trips by ministers and other government officials except absolutely essential engagements.

As a reminder to all U.S. citizens, contracting EVD can be avoided through practicing good preventative measures. The virus is easily killed by contact with soap, bleach, sunlight, or drying. You will not contract EVD if you avoid contact with the body fluids of someone who is ill with EVD or the corpse of someone who has died of EVD. Also avoid bat and primate (bush) meat as it can transmit EVD to humans.

For more information:

- Continue to visit the [U.S. Embassy Freetown website and Facebook page](#) for regular updates.
- Visit the World Health Organization [website](#).
- Visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [website and review the CDC Travel Notice for Sierra Leone](#).

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Sierra Leone enroll in the [Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#). STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates, and makes it easier for the U.S. embassy or nearest U.S. consulate to contact you in an emergency. If you don't have Internet access, enroll directly with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Contact the U.S. embassy for up-to-date information on travel restrictions by visiting the [U.S. Embassy Freetown website](#). You can also get global updates at the U.S. Department of State [Bureau of Consular Affairs website](#), where you can find the current [Worldwide Caution](#), [Travel Warnings](#), [Travel Alerts](#), and [Country Specific Information](#). If you don't have internet access, you can get current information on safety and security by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States, or for callers from other countries, a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). Also follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

The U.S. Embassy in Freetown is located at Leicester Square, Regent. If you have questions or concerns about safety or related issues, contact the consular section at the Embassy by sending an email to [consularfreetown@state.gov](mailto:consularfreetown@state.gov) or calling 232(76) 515-000 or 076-515-000. For after- hours emergencies, please call Tel: 232-(76) 515-000 or 076-515-000.